

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-26, 28-30, and 35-39 are allowed. Claims 40-45 are herein withdrawn and cancelled without prejudice

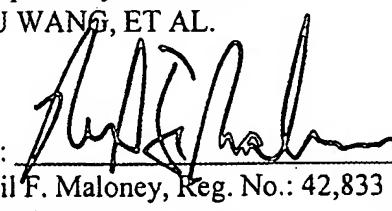
As the offered amendments place the case in condition for allowance, it is appropriate that the Examiner enter all the offered amendments into the case at this time. Rule 116(a); MPEP 714.12, 714.13.

In response to the Applicant's addition of claims 40-45 (Amendment A), the Examiner issued a restriction requirement after amendment in accordance with MPEP 821.03, stating that claims 40-45 are directed to an invention that is independent and distinct from the original claims.

On May 19, 2005, the Examiner granted the Applicant's attorney the courtesy of a telephonic interview to discuss the restriction requirement. The Applicant's attorney requested the Examiner reconsider the restriction. The Examiner reaffirmed his belief that the new claims 40-45 are distinct from the original claims. As such, the Applicant agreed to withdraw and cancel the non-elected claims 40-45 without prejudice, as is done herein. It was then noted that the Applicant intends to pursue the originally filed claims and the non-elected claims, as well as other claims of varying scope, in one or more continuation/divisional applications.

The Applicant believes this response and amendment to resolve all remaining issues in this case. Favorable action is solicited. The Examiner is invited to directly contact the undersigned in order to advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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